DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 421 217 PS 026 639

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TITLE	Windows on Learning: Documenting Young Children's Work. Early Childhood Education Series.
ISBN	ISBN-0-8077-3678-3
PUB DATE	1998-00-00
NOTE	203p.; Foreword by Lilian G. Katz.
AVAILABLE FROM	Teachers College Press, Teachers College, Columbia University, 1234 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10027; toll-free phone: 800-575-6566; fax: 212-678-4149; World Wide Web: http://www.tc.columbia.edu/~tcpress/ (Cloth: ISBN-0-8077-3679-1, $42; Paper: ISBN-0-8077-3678-3, $19.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Classroom - Teacher (052) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Active Learning; *Classroom Techniques; Cooperative Learning; Creative Development; Discovery Learning; *Documentation; *Early Childhood Education; Experiential Learning; Group Activities; Instructional Innovation; Learning Activities; Portfolios (Background Materials); Problem Solving; Reflective Teaching; Student Evaluation; *Student Projects; Teacher Effectiveness; Teacher Role; Teacher Student Relationship; Teaching Methods
IDENTIFIERS	*Project Approach (Katz and Chard); Reggio Emilia Approach; Self Reflection; Webbing (Thematic)

ABSTRACT

This book grew out of the experiences of three teachers as they learned to document young children's work in their respective schools. Part I of this book enables readers to learn about documentation. Chapter 1 provides the rationale for the study of documentation, and chapter 2 explains the windows framework that guided the teachers in thinking about documentation. Chapter 3 presents the web of documentation types. Chapters 4-8 provide an in-depth exploration of the variety of documentation types, with samples collected by the teachers. The children's work and teacher notes illustrate what children learned and how they developed through use of the project approach. Part II of the book explores learning how to document children's work. Chapters 9-11 explain how to collect, organize, and share documentation with children, other teachers, parents, and the community. Throughout the book and especially in chapter 10, teacher reflections illustrate how the teachers used documentation to inform teaching and to make decisions. Chapter 11 discusses how documentation as described in this book relates to recommendations and requirements for assessment. Part III of the book explores the documentation of one project, "Our Mail Project," which was completed by a class of 3- and 4-year-olds over a 6-week period. The teacher's documentation and the children's documentation show the progress of the project as it grew, expanded, and concluded. The complete documentation of this project illustrates how a project develops, how documentation can be integrated into all areas of development, how documentation informs teaching, and how documentation enables others to see how much learning took place in the classroom. (Author/LPP)

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